

Example 6th Grade Responses for DWA

(Directed Writing Assessment)

Using Anchor Papers

These examples of student responses to the 2003 Direct Writing Assessment prompt and the accompanying annotations were used as training materials for scorers. It would be helpful to have available a copy of the Six Traits Scoring rubric for reference as you read these student papers and annotations.

The student authors of these papers are not identifiable in any way. Names of towns, people, schools, etc. have been changed to protect the identities of the writers.

Teachers may use these examples and annotations in the classroom as instructional tools.

Prompt

A family is thinking of moving to your town. They asked you for information about why your town would be a good place to live.

Write a paper convincing this family that your town would or would not be a good place to live.

Student Response 1

Your town
03UT06WR_A-1

You should move here it's a good town to
move in because it has better schools hardly
any games and

20648

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

209A

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 1**

In this response, information provided is extremely limited. Although there is some indication of a preferred position on the subject (You should move here it's a good town), attempts at development are minimal (because it has better dod's hardly any ganes and). Thus, the writer has not begun to define the topic in any meaningful way.

Organization**Score Point: 1**

This response lacks an overall structure. There is an identifiable introduction (You should move here) but no conclusion present. The limited details that are provided do not clearly contribute to the main idea (it has better dod's hardly any ganes and).

Voice**Score Point: 2**

Although the writer of this response addresses the audience (You should move here), the response is so limited that the language is insubstantial and unconvincing. Thus, there is little sense of the writer behind the words.

Word Choice**Score Point: 1**

In this response, the writer struggles with an extremely limited vocabulary. Verbs are weak and few in number (it's a good... it has better...). Overall, little is provided for the reader to grasp.

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 1**

This text consists of choppy and incomplete sentences (You should move here it's a good town to move in becouse it has better dod's hardly any ganes and). Further, the response is so limited that there is little or no opportunity to demonstrate familiarity with sentence patterns.

Conventions**Score Point: 1**

The writer of this brief response demonstrates very limited skill in using conventions. Terminal punctuation is omitted (You should move here it's a good town) and spelling errors on common words are distracting (becouse, dod's, ganes), causing the reader to reread for meaning.

Student Response 2

A Special Place
03UT06WR_A-2

JACKSON HOLE WYOMING

you got to go there it is the fun. it has
animals like deer. it has a snow boarding
resort. it has motels. and it has houses.



14952

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 1**

In this limited response, the reader is forced to make inferences based on very sketchy details. The writer states his/her opinion, the main idea (JACKSON HOLE WYOMING you got to go there it is the fun). However, attempts at development result simply in a minimal list of random thoughts (it has animls like deer... it has motles. and it has houses). Thus, the writer has not begun to define the topic in any meaningful or personal way.

Organization**Score Point: 1**

This response lacks an overall structure. There is an identifiable introduction (JACKSON HOLE WYOMING you got to go there) but no conclusion. Details offered fail to contribute to the main idea (it has animls like deer. It has a sownbornding resornt. it has motles). Thus, a lack of transitions and awkward placement of details create noticeable gaps and confuse the reader.

Voice**Score Point: 2**

Although the writer addresses the audience (you got to go there it is the fun) and attempts involvement with the topic, the writing communicates only on a functional level (it has animls like deer... it has motles. and it has houses). Further, the response is so limited, the reader gets little sense of the writer behind the words.

Word Choice**Score Point: 1**

In this response, the writer struggles with an extremely limited vocabulary. Verbs are weak and repetitive (it is the fun. it has animls... it has a sownbornding... it has motles) throughout. Thus, the language is so vague and redundant that only the most general message comes through.

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 2**

With repetitive word patterns and mechanical sentences (it is the fun. it has animls like deer... it has motles. and it has houses), this response demonstrates a limited familiarity with sentence patterns.

Conventions**Score Point: 2**

In this limited sample of writing, the writer does demonstrate some skill in usage and grammar as well as end-of-sentence punctuation. However, the writer fails to capitalize words at the start of sentences (it has motles. and it has houses). In addition, common words are sometimes misspelled (animls, sownbornding, resornt, motles), and there is no attempt at paragraphing. Overall, the writer shows limited skill in using conventions.

Student Response 3

Your town
03UT06WR_A-3

Arden Hills

It's a good place because they
have good education. It's a great place
to live in. It's a small town but it's a fun town
to live in. They have sports that kids
can play during summer. They have
really fun schools to attend and they teach
really fun stuff and I like to be in school
and school is fun.

20937

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

~~20937~~ 20937

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 2**

This limited response has a main idea (Arden Hills it's a good Place) but lacks focus. Supporting details are simply a collection of details with minimal elaboration (They have really fun schools to attend and they teach really fun stuff and I like to be in school and school is fun). While the writer has made an attempt to define the topic, he/she shows little control of the material.

Organization**Score Point: 2**

This response exhibits a weak overall structure. There is an introduction (Arden Hills it's a good Place) but no conclusion. While the limited details provided are beginning to contribute to the main idea, transitions are weak, leaving connections between ideas difficult to discern (They have a sports that kids can play during summer. They have really fun schools to attend and they teach really fun stuff and I like to be in school and school is fun). Thus, the reader is not easily led from point to point.

Voice**Score Point: 2**

In this limited response, the writer attempts involvement with the topic (it's is a great place to live in. it' a small town but, it a fun town...), but seems unaware of an audience (...and they teach really fun stuff and I like to be in school and school is fun). As a result, the reader is left with little sense of the writer behind the words.

Word Choice**Score Point: 2**

In this limited response, the writer uses repetitive and dull verbs throughout the text (it's a good place... because they have... it's is a great place... They have a sports... They have really fun stuff). While the writer makes some effort to use the right words to express meaning, the language is nonspecific (a good place...good education... a great place... it a fun town... really fun schools... teach really fun stuff... school is fun).

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 2**

In this response, sentences are occasionally complete but are usually mechanical and flawed. A fragment (Arden Hills it's a good place. because they have good education) and awkward sentence construction (They have really fun schools to attend and they teach really fun stuff and I like to be in school and school is fun) disrupt the flow of the text.

Conventions**Score point: 2**

In this response, frequent errors in conventions distract, making the text generally difficult to read. While the writer usually controls end of sentence punctuation, there are capitalization errors (because they... it's is... it' a small) as well as other errors (it's is... it a fun town... They have a sports). Paragraphing is absent. Thus, in this limited writing sample, the writer demonstrates little skill in using conventions.

Student Response 4

Your town
03UT06WR_A-4

My place is madison Madison
is a good place to live because of all
the schools her the more the Better.
And Madison is because all the
store are there ween you want to
go shopping. And a nother reason it is
good to live her is because of all the
people here.
So I think that Madison is good
the reason I pick school and shopping and stuff
like that is Because withe the school there
is someone you can trust and with the
shopping is Because there is all the store
around as like Big k.
So I think it is a very good place to
live not Because of all the stores or because
of the schools and some people Dont
want to come her Because there are
no Beaches or stuff like that But
we Do have stuff like the North park
and the pond and all the other park.
So I think that trav shoud just give
Madison a chance.

20941

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

29A

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 2**

In this response, the writer states his/her opinion, the main idea (Madison is a good place to live). The writer has made an attempt to define the topic (some people Don't want to come here Because there are no Beaches or stuff like that But we Do have stuff like the North park) but provides weak development (Madison is a good place to live because of all the schools here the more the Better). Thus, support is less than adequate to develop the main idea fully.

Organization**Score Point: 2**

This response exhibits a weak overall organization. There is an identifiable introduction (My place is madison) and an identifiable conclusion (So, I think that they should just give Madison a chance). The writer attempts to use transitions to connect ideas (So I think that ... So I think it is...). However, the support provided is so repetitive and the connections between ideas so difficult to discern that the reader is not easily led from point to point (The reason I pick school and shopping and stuff... Because with the school... with the shopping is Because there is all the store... So I think it is a very good place to live not Because of all the stores or because of the schools).

Voice**Score Point: 2**

The writer attempts involvement with the topic (we Do have stuff like the North park and the pond...). Although there is some evidence that the writer is aware of an audience (because all the store are there when you want to go shopping), the writing communicates only on a functional level (and with the shopping is Because there is all the store around as like Big K...Madison is a good place...And another reason it is good to live here...So I think that Madison is good...So I think it is a very good place...). Thus, the reader is left with little sense of the writer behind the words.

Word Choice**Score Point: 2**

The writer attempts to use the right words to express meaning, but falls into a pattern of repetitive verbs and tired phrases (My place is madison. Madison is a good place... Madison is because all the store are there... it is good to live here is because... Because with the school there is someone you can trust and with the shopping is Because there is all the...). Further, words are generally colorless (shopping and stuff... and some people Don't want... no Beaches or stuff like that... we Do have stuff...). Consequently, language is superficial and nonspecific.

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 2**

In this response, word patterns are usually repetitive and demonstrate a limited familiarity with sentence patterns (Madison is a good place to live because... here is because... that is Because... shopping is Because... not Because of the stores or because of the school...). Further, awkward sentence constructions disrupt the flow of text (So I think it is a very good place to live not Because of all the stores or because of the schools and some people Don't want to come here Because there are no Beaches or stuff like that But we Do have stuff like the North park and the pond and all the other park). Thus, the paper is generally difficult to read orally.

Conventions**Score Point: 2**

This writer shows limited skill in using conventions. There is missing terminal punctuation (So I think that Madison is good the reason I pick school...), common words are misspelled (becouse, her for here, ween for when, withe, ether, pork for park), and errors in capitalization occur throughout the writing (My place is madison... the more the Better... some people Don't want to come her Becouse... like North pork). Consequently, these frequent errors distract the reader.

Student Response 5

Your town
03UT06WR_A-6

Dear Family,
I am going to tell you about our town
it is very clean, it don't have hardly any
drugs or vandalism.

It has a wonderful scenery and in the
fall you would just love to go for
a ride and watch the colorful
leaves fall to the ground and the
mountains are very green so the
mountains give good food to the
animals that live on it.

During the summer time when
every body is out of school
they just keep getting more parks for
kids to play on to keep them out of
trouble.

Well I hope you have a good
time moving in to your new house.

Sincerely,

Your Nextdoor
Neighbor.

[Signature]



20566

Ideas and Content

Score Point: 3

This limited response is focused and somewhat persuasive. There is a main idea (I am going to tell you about our town). Elaboration is attempted as the writer begins to define the topic (It has a wonderful scenery and in the fall you would just love to go for a ride and watch the colorful leaves fall to the ground...); however, the writer does not provide enough supporting reasons to be very convincing.

Organization

Score Point: 3

In this response, there is a recognizable introduction (I am going to tell you about our town) and a recognizable conclusion (Well I hope you have a good time moving into your new house). Placement of details is at times confusing (it don't have hardly any drugs or vandalism. It has wonderful scenery...). Despite problems, the organization does not get in the way of the main idea.

Voice

Score Point: 3

In this response, voice emerges strongly on occasion (you would just love to go for a ride and watch the colorful leaves fall to the ground), and the writer does address the audience (I am going to tell you about our town... Well I hope you have a good time moving into your new house). However, the majority of the writing communicates in an earnest but routine manner (it don't have hardly any drugs or vandalism... so the mountains give good food to the animals that live on it). Thus, the response is pleasant and acceptable, but not compelling for the reader.

Word Choice

Score Point: 3

In this response, the writer attempts imagery (in the fall you would just love to go for a ride and watch the colorful leaves fall to the ground and the mountains are very green). However, much of the wording lacks precision (it don't have hardly any drugs... the mountains give good food to the animals... have a good time). Consequently, language is quite ordinary, but it does convey the message.

Sentence Fluency

Score Point: 3

In this limited response, awkward sentence construction sometimes forces the reader to slow down (It has a wonderful scenery and in the fall you would just love to go for a ride and watch the colorful leaves fall to the ground and the mountains are very green so the mountains give good food to the animals that live on it). Thus, sentences tend to lack rhythm.

Conventions

Score Point: 3

In this response, while there is some missing or incorrect terminal punctuation (I am going to tell you about our town it is very clean, it don't have hardly any drugs or vandalism), much of the terminal punctuation is correct. Spelling, usage and capitalization are usually correct and paragraphing is demonstrated. Thus, the writer shows a reasonable control over a limited range of conventions.

Student Response 6

A Special Place
03UT06WR_A-7

Dear Vanessa,

I was thinking about what you said to me, "What do you think would be a fun place to go during spring break?" I would suggest St. George.

Me and my family went there last year, it was extremely fun!

The Hotel we went to was called, Abby Inn. Gray brick with a purple streak through each brick, each had a different design. Outside the hotel there was a swimming pool, it looked like a bubble eight.

Great shopping area's too! Old Navy, mall, Payless. I would probably say, "Go to Old Navy!" they usually have sales, just in case, bring your own money!

Family fun center is amazing! Going there makes you feel like you are going into an extremely fun place in Las Vegas.

They have arcade games and enormous candy machines.

Just a thought!
- Jane



15002

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Ideas and Content

Score Point: 3

This response is clear, focused, and somewhat persuasive. There is a main idea present (I would suggest St. George. Me and my family went there last year, it was extreamly fun!). Elaboration is attempted, but it is limited and at times too general (I would probably say, "Go to Old Navy!"... Family fun center is amazing... you feel like you are going into an extreamly fun place in LasVegas).

Organization

Score Point: 3

This response exhibits an overall structure that allows the reader to follow what is being said. There is a recognizable introduction (I was thinking about what you said to me, "what do you think would be a fun place to go during spring break?" I would suggest St. George) and a conclusion (Just a thought!). While details offered generally support the main idea, placement of these details is at times confusing (Gray brick with a purple streak through each brick, each had a diffrent design).

Voice

Score Point: 4

The writer is genuine and is generally involved in the topic (Great shopping area's too!... Family fun center is amazing!). The writer addresses the audience, a friend (I was thinking about what you said to me, "what do you think would be a fun place to go during spring break?" I would suggest St. George). Thus, the tone is appropriate for the purpose and audience.

Word Choice

Score Point: 3

In this response, the writer uses imagery (Outside the hotel there was a swimming pool, it looked like a bubble eight). However, the inclusion of some flat, repetitive phrases fails to add power to the response (it was extreamly fun! ... you feel like you are going into an extreamly fun place). Some of the words lack precision (a fun place, Great shopping area's, amazing) and generally the verbs lack power (was thinking, we went, each had, there was, They have). Consequently, language is quite ordinary, but it does convey the message.

Sentence Fluency

Score Point: 3

Although this writer demonstrates good control of simple sentence structure (I would suggest St. George... it was extreamly fun!) and offers some fragments that work, (Great shopping area's too!), sentences generally fall in the a pattern of simple constructions (it was extreamly fun!... it looked like a bubble eight... they usually have sales... Family fun center is amazing!). Thus, the sentences tend to be mechanical.

Conventions

Score Point: 3

This writer generally demonstrates control of capitalization and usage with few errors. The writer uses paragraphing and spells most words correctly. However, there are a few words misspelled (extreamly, diffrent) and an apostrophe used incorrectly (area's). Furthermore, there are end-of-sentence punctuation errors throughout the response, (...went there last year, it was extreamly fun... there was a swimming pool, it looked like a bubble eight). Consequently, errors tend to be distracting in this response.

Student Response 7

Your town
03UT06WR_A-8

Dear family,

I think that you would like it here it's not big but not small. There are lots of nice people and stores. There are even places for new houses to be built and there are variety of schools you can send your children to. The teachers are nice and the Principal is to. You even have a movie theater and stores right next to it. All of the restaurants are nice. You even have carpools to send your children in. We have great weather and plants. The public library is big with lots and lots of books and you can even get on the internet there. And the bowling alley is nice. There is a pool table and a arcade place so you can bowl and your kids can play the arcade.

Sincerely,

Adam Baker

20547

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

49A

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 3**

This limited response is focused and somewhat persuasive. There is a main idea (I think that you would like it here). Elaboration is attempted as the writer begins to define the topic, but control is sporadic. The writer has difficulty going from general observation to specific points (there are veriaty of schools you can send your children to the teachers are nice and the Princibal is to. You even have a movie theator and stores right next to it. All of the restrounts...).

Organization**Score Point: 2**

This response exhibits a weak overall organization. There is an identifiable introduction (I think that you would like it here), but no conclusion is present. While details are beginning to contribute to the main idea, transitions are weak and connections between ideas are difficult to discern (All of the restrounts are nice. You even have carpoles to send your children in. We have graet wether and plants. The publice library is big...).

Voice**Score Point: 3**

The writing in this response tends to communicate in an earnest but fairly routine manner (The teachers are nice and the Princibal is to... All of the restrounts are nice). While there is evidence that the writer addresses the audience (I think that you would like it here... You even have carpoles to send your children in), at times voice seems to disappear behind general or vague language (it's not big but not small. There are lots of nice people and stores. There are even places for new houses to be bilt...)

Word Choice**Score Point: 3**

The language in this response communicates but rarely captures the reader's imagination (We have graet wether and plants. The publice library is big with lots and lots of books and you can even get on the internet there). While the paper does have some fine moments (...for new houses to be bilt and there are veriaty of schools... You even have carpoles...), flat verbs rob the text of power (There are even... there is a pool table...). The result is a generic paper with familiar words and phrases.

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 3**

In this response, sentences sometimes vary in length and structure, but for the most part the writer falls into a pattern of simple sentences and sticks with it (I think that you would like it here... There are lots of nice people and stores... All of the restrounts are nice... We have graet wether and plants). Thus, sentences tend to be mechanical and lack rhythm.

Conventions**Score Point: 2**

This writer shows limited skill in using conventions. Spelling errors sometimes occur, even on common words (to for too, carpoles, graet, aly, yoru), and there is missing terminal punctuation (I think that you would like it here it's not big but not small... schools you can send your children to the teachers are nice...).

Student Response 8

Your town
03UT06WR_A-9

Pine City It is a great place to live. Pine City has all the seasons it snows, rain, and hails. I've live here all my life, there hasn't hardly been any crimes here, it doesn't smell like smoke like Las Vegas does. It's not really a pact town. We have sport leagues here's a couple of examples Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, football, and summer track and field. I do all the sports except soccer.

This town is going to be a better town cause we're getting a skate park so there won't be any more curb wax on the curbs. We have really good schools for example Brock-Bank Elementary School or Pine City Middle School.

There are a lot more houses and one of my friends live in one. It's the houses next to the High School by the orthodontist. We have gas stations, stores like Shopko, Kmart, and a couple other stores. There are a couple of restaurants. There are a couple of parks to like for example Northpark, Southpark, Canyon View park, and the one by the Library.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

20565

MA SDA

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 3**

This response is focused and somewhat persuasive. The writer states his/her opinion, the main idea (Pine City, Ut is a great place to live). Elaboration is attempted, but it is limited and often too general (There are a lot more houses and one of my friends live in one... We have gas stations stores like Shopko Kmart, and a couple other stores. There are a couple of resteraunts). The writer has begun to define the topic, but control is sporadic (Pine City has all the seasons it snows, rain, and hails. I've live here all my life, there hasn't hardly been any crimes here, it doesn't smell like smoke like Las Vegas does.)

Organization**Score Point: 3**

This response exhibits an overall structure that allows the reader to follow what is being said. There is a recognizable introduction (Pine City, Ut is a great place to live), but no conclusion present. While details offered generally support the main idea (We have sport leagues... There are a couple of parks to...), placement of these details is at times confusing (There are a lot more houses and one of my friends live in one. It's the houses next to the Highs School by the orthodontist. We have gas stations stores like ShopKo Kmart, and a couple other stores. There are a couple of resteraunts).

Voice**Score Point: 3**

In this response, the writing communicates in an earnest but fairly routine manner (This town is going to be a better town cause were getting a skate park so there wont be any more curb wax on the curbs). Furthermore, the writer does not seem to address the audience. Consequently, the result is pleasant but not compelling.

Word Choice**Score Point: 3**

In this response, the language is ordinary and functional (Pine City, Ut is a great place to live... I've live her all my life... There are a lot more houses and one of my friends live in one). Furthermore, the writer's repetitive use of verbs robs the text of power (We have really good schools... There are a lot more houses... We have gas stations... There are a couple of resteraunts. There are a couple of parks...). Consequently, the language communicates but rarely captures the reader's imagination.

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 3**

In this response, the writer falls into a pattern of mostly simple sentences (Pine City has all the season it snows, rain, and hails. I've live here all my life, there hasn't hardly been any crimes here... It's not really a pact town). Attempts to vary sentence length often result in sentences that are functional but lack style (here's a couple of examples Baseball, Basketball, Soccer, football, and summertrack and field... We have really good schools for example BrockBank Elementary School or Pine City Middle School... There are a couple of parks to like for example Northpark, Southpark, CanyonVeiwpark, and the one by the Library). Thus, sentences tend to be mechanical and lack rhythm.

Conventions**Score Point: 3**

In this response, terminal punctuation is usually correct, although errors do occur (Pine City has all the seasons it snows, rain, and hails. I've live here all my life, there hasn't hardly been any crimes here...). Paragraphing is attempted, but is inconsistent. Spelling is usually correct, and errors in usage are not severe enough to distort meaning (I've live here all my life...It's the houses next to the Highs School...). Control of capitalization is inconsistent. Thus, errors in standard writing conventions tend to be distracting.

A Special Place
03UT06WR_A-10

Yellowstone

Have you ever been to Yellowstone? If you haven't you should go.

There is a lot of great things to do there. You can go to the Imax theater, the National Park, and see the geysers.

I loved the Imax theater. They make you feel like your there in the movie. When I was watching it I yelled once or twice because it felt like I was falling down a water fall.

At Yellowstone's National Park it is so pretty. The ground is green, and you can see buffalo in the distance. Trees there are so tall you can not see the tops of them.

The geysers look so cool. Old Faithful goes off sometimes. We didn't get to see that go off but we still saw the paint pots.

Museums there are fun to go to. You can find a lot of interesting things in one, and I love the smell of them.

Driving around the area is fun also. You see stores and animals you haven't seen before.

After all of the fun we had there I didn't ever want to go home.

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

18034

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 4**

This response is clear, focused, and persuasive. There is a main idea in the form of the writer's opinion (Yellowstone... There is a lot of great things to do there). The writer shows an understanding of the ways ideas interconnect and elaborates by moving from general observation to specific points with ease (I loved the Imax theater. They make you feel like your there in the movie. When I was watching it I yelled once or twice because it felt like I was falling down a water fall). Supporting details are consistent, relevant, and begin to pique the reader's interest.

Organization**Score Point: 4**

This response has an overall structure that moves the reader through the text. There is a functional introduction (Have you ever been to Yellowstone? If you havn't you should go) and a conclusion (After all of the fun we had there I didn't ever want to go home). Placement of details is generally clear, and transitions are appropriate (At Yellowstone's Park it is so pretty... When I was watching it... After all of the fun).

Voice**Score Point: 3**

The writing in this response tends to communicate in an earnest but fairly routine manner (There is a lot of great things to do there. You can go to the Imax theater...). While there is evidence that the writer addresses the audience (Have you ever been to Yellowstone? If you havn't you should go), at times voice tends to disappear behind general or vague language (Museums there are fun to go to. You can find a lot of interesting things in one, and I love the smell of them).

Word Choice**Score Point: 3**

In this response, the language is ordinary, but it does convey the message. While the meaning is clear, some words lack precision (There is a lot of great things to do... You can find a lot of interesting things). Although the writer uses some imagery (The ground is green, and you can see buffalo in the distance. Trees there are so tall you can not see the tops of them), the inclusion of overused phrases is common (Museums there are fun, Driving around the area is fun).

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 4**

This writer demonstrates control of both simple and complex sentence constructions (When I was watching it I yelled once or twice because it felt like I was falling down a water fall). In addition, there is variety in sentence structure and length (Have you ever been to Yellowstone? If you havn't you should go... We didn't get to see that go of but we still saw the paint pots).

Conventions**Score Point: 4**

In this response, the writer demonstrates an overall grasp of standard writing conventions. The writing is fairly long, but not especially complex. While usage and grammar are generally correct, spelling errors on common words sometimes appear (havn't, your, of). The writer uses paragraphing, correct terminal punctuation, and generally correct internal punctuation.

Your town
03UT06WR A-11a

I think that if a family was thinking of moving to Alexandria they would have chosen well. I also think that they would like it here. I have a few good reasons why they would like it here too. First, not as many people live here because Alexandria is a smaller town. That way you will have more quietness for things you enjoy, such as reading a book. You will also have more room because there aren't as many houses. Not only that, but you will have less and smaller accidents, so you will know that your family is safe.

Second, lots of really nice people live here, so you will make friends more easily. They might comfort you on a bad day and make it a little bit better for you. They will also report bad things, such as vandalism or robbery, so your house will be safe when you go on a vacation.

Third, not as many things are going on so you may get your house work done without the distractions of things around you. Also it will reduce the noise level, so you may have quietness. This also makes less accidents around and will make it a

24A

safe place to live for you and your family.

If I were to give advice about where to live, this is probably close to what I would say. In conclusion I think that this is a good place to live for most people and this would be where I would choose to live.

20683

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 4**

This response is clear, focused, and persuasive. The writer expresses his/her opinion, the main idea (I think if a family was thinking of moving to Alexandria, they would have chosen well. I also think that they would like it here), in a somewhat convincing way, by providing some supporting reasons that elaborate the main idea (Second, lots of really nice people live here, so you will make friends more easily. They might comfort you on a bad day and make it a little bit better for you). The writer shows an understanding of the way ideas interconnect (First, not as many people live here because Alexandria is a smaller town. That way you will have more quietness for things you enjoy, such as reading a book. You will also have more room because there aren't as many houses).

Organization**Score Point: 4**

This response has an overall structure that moves the reader through the text. There is a functional introduction (I think that if a family was thinking of moving to Alexandria, they would have chosen well) and a functional conclusion (If I were to give advice about where to live this is probably close to what I would say... this would be where I would choose to live). Details are well-placed and relevant to the main idea, and transitions work well (First not as many people live here because Alexandria is a smaller town. That way you will have more quietness for things you enjoy, such as reading a book. You will also have more room because there aren't as many houses).

Voice**Score Point: 3**

The writing in this response tends to communicate in an earnest but fairly routine manner (Also it will reduce the noise level, so you may have quietness). While there is evidence that the writer addresses the audience (That way you will have more quietness for things you enjoy, such as reading a book), at times voice disappears behind general or vague language (I also think that they would like it here. I have a few good reasons why they would like it here... not as many people live here because Alexandria is a smaller town).

Word Choice**Score Point: 4**

In this response, the words selected convey the message in a realistic and reasonable way. The vocabulary is natural (Second, lots of really nice people live here, so you will make friends more easily. They might comfort you on a bad day and make it a little bit better for you. They will also report bad things, such as vandalism or robbery, so your house will be safe when you go on a vacation). Thus, the writing is usually clear and easy to interpret.

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 4**

Sentences in this response typically vary in length and structure (First, not as many people live here because Alexandria is a smaller town. That way you will have more quietness for things you enjoy, such as reading a book. You will also have more room because there aren't as many houses. Not only that, but you will have less and smaller accidents, so you will know that your family is safe). Moreover, these sentences are generally well-crafted, and the writer demonstrates control.

Conventions**Score Point: 4**

The writer demonstrates an overall grasp of standard writing conventions, though the response is not especially complex. Spelling is usually correct, although there are some common words misspelled (realy, youre, house work, were for where). Paragraphing is demonstrated. Usage, punctuation, and capitalization are generally correct.

Your town
03UT06WR_A-12a

Have you ever wondered what it was like living in the country? Have you ever wondered what it was like to sleep with out any cars speeding by your window? Well, my name is Casey Clark and I live in a little country town called Sloan Utah.

In Sloan it is very quiet and peaceful. In the night from about nine thirty p.m. to about five in the morning, there are not lots of cars. This makes it really easy to sleep.

Along the highway there is a big pond with lots of fish. By the pond there is a large park. The park has a play ground with swings and a slide. Near the park there is a large field.

One thing I really enjoy about Sloan is every one is nice. When you drive down the street every one waves as you go by.

Another good thing about Sloan is, the mountains are close by. This is nice because you can go to the mountains for a picnic and be home



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before dark.

Something everyone with kids would enjoy is a big yard. You can find big yards throughout Sloan. These are very nice, except when it comes to mowing.

Also a nice thing about Sloan is in April there is a big easter egg hunt. The town lines up the children according to age, and then say go! All the kids run to the field so they can get eggs.

I Aug. Sloan has Sloan Day. On this day there is a few races. There is also a parade, carnival, play, and fireworks at the end of the day.

The last thing I am going to tell you about is the elementary school. It has grades K-5. It is a really nice place. It has a playground with lots of cool stuff. As well as some animals and a ton of great teachers.

Well now you know a little about Sloan Utah. I hope it is a place you would like to live. Well I have to go, see you later.

Your town
03UT06WR_A-12b

75B

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 4**

This response is clear, focused, and persuasive. The writer expresses his/her opinion, the main idea (Well now you know a little about Sloan Utah. I hope it is a place you would like to live), in a somewhat convincing way, by providing supporting reasons that move from general observation to specific points (In Sloan it is very quiet and peaceful. In the night from about nine thirty p.m. to about five in the morning, there are not lots of cars. This makes it really easy to sleep... Also a nice thing about Sloan is in April there is a big easter egg hunt. The town lines up the children according to age, and then say go! All the kids run to the field so they can get eggs). Thus, the writer seems to be in control and has sufficiently defined the topic.

Organization**Score Point: 4**

In this response, there is a functional introduction (Have you ever wondered what it was like living in the country?) and a functional conclusion (Well now you know... see you later) that are relevant to the main idea. Details are well-placed and relevant to the main idea, and transitions work well (In the night... there are not lots of cars. This makes it easy to sleep. Along the highway there is a big pond... By the pond there is a large park).

Voice**Score Point: 4**

The writer is genuine and is generally involved in the topic (Something everyone with kids would enjoy is a big yard. You can find big yards throughout Sloan. These are very nice, except when it comes to mowing). There is evidence that the writer addresses the audience (Have you ever wondered what it was like to sleep with out cars speeding by your window?). Consequently, the reader gets a sense of the person behind the words.

Word Choice**Score Point: 4**

In this response, the writing is usually clear and easy to interpret. Imagery is present (Also a nice thing about Sloan is in April there is a big easter egg hunt. The town lines up the children according to age, and then say go! All the kids run to the field so they can get eggs). Words are correct and adequate (Another good thing about Sloan is, the mountains are close by. This is nice because you can go to the mountains for a picnic and be home before dark) and therefore convey the message in a realistic way.

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 4**

In this response, sentences typically vary in length and structure (Well, my name is Casey Clark and I live in a little country town called Sloan Utah. In Sloan it is very quiet and peaceful. In the night from about nine thirty p.m. to about five in the morning, there are not lots of cars. This makes it really easy to sleep). The sentences are generally well-crafted, and the writer shows control over both simple and complex syntax (By the pond there is a large park. The park has a play ground with swings and a slide. Near the park there is a large field. One thing I really enjoy about Sloan is every one is nice. When you drive down the street every one waves as you go by). Thus, the writing has some rhythm that flows throughout most of the text when read aloud.

Conventions**Score Point: 4**

The writer of this response demonstrates an overall grasp of standard writing conventions, though the response is not especially complex. Punctuation is relatively smooth with relatively few errors (I live in a little country town called Sloan Utah... Well I have to go, see you later). Capitalization and usage are usually correct, and paragraphing is present. Spelling is mostly correct, although errors do occur (play ground, feild, Somthing).

Your town
03UT06WR_A-13a

A family is thinking of moving to Belle Plaine. They asked me for information about why my town would be a good place to live. So this is what I told them:

"Belle Plaine is a very wonderful place to live, because in my neighborhood everybody is really nice. They all want to be your friend. It's a tradition in my ward that you make a dinner for new comers. (Or for families with new born babies.)

"Another reason is the busy roads. In the area where I live there aren't many busy roads. I see you have a few little children. They wander into the streets a lot don't they? Well, the speed limit is twenty-five, and there aren't many busy roads, so by the time a car comes along, someone will have noticed the child, and come to rescue him or her, or the car will slowly come to a stop. It's a really safe neighborhood. You can leave your kids outside with thier friends for two to three hours. That brings me to my nex reason.

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"My friends are some of the best friends in the world! You can't find a better neighborhood of friends anywhere else! My best friend, Emma Jones, is the nicest person around. She lives really close to me. So you don't have to worry about driving the car across town every time your kids want to play. There is always someone to play with nearby. Emma and I have been friends for over nine years! I have little brothers and sisters that would love to be your children's friends! I really hope you move here!"

So that's what I told them, and it worked too. I was so convincing that they moved here. I'm glad to tell you they love it too!

Ideas and Content

Score Point: 5

This response is clear, focused, and persuasive. The writer expresses his/her opinion, the main idea (Belle Plaine is a very wonderful place to live, because in my neighborhood everybody is really nice), in a convincing manner, by providing ample elaboration that develops the topic in an enlightening and entertaining way (Another reason is the busy roads. In the area where I live there aren't many busy roads. I see you have a few little children. They wander into the streets a lot don't they? Well, the speed limit is twenty-five, and there aren't many busy roads, so by the time a car comes along, someone will have noticed the child and come to rescue him or her, or the car will slowly come to a stop). The writer seems to be in control and the writing has balance.

Organization

Score Point: 5

This response exhibits an overall structure that showcases the main idea and moves the reader nicely through the text. The response begins with an inviting introduction (A family is thinking... So this is what I told them) and is completed by a satisfying conclusion (So that's what I told them... they love it too). Transitions are smooth (Well, the speed limit... That brings me to my next point... So you don't have to worry...). Details fit where they are placed (My best friend, Emma Smith, is nicest person around. She lives really close to me. So you don't have to worry about driving your car across town every time your kids want to play. There is always someone to play with nearby).

Voice

Score Point: 5

The writer speaks directly to the audience throughout the text in a way that is expressive and engaging (I see you have a few little children. They wander into the the streets a lot don't they? Well, the speed limit is twenty-five...). The language is natural and brings the topic to life (I have little brothers and sisters that would love to be your children's friends! I really hope you move here!). Clearly, the writer is involved in the topic and is writing to be read.

Word Choice

Score Point: 4

In this response, the writer uses a vocabulary that is natural and conveys the message in a realistic and reasonable way (Belle Plaine is a very wonderful place tolive, because in my neighborhood, everybody is really nice. They all want to be your friend. It's a tradition in my ward that you make a dinner for new comers). Verbs occasionally strike a spark (I see you have a few little children. They wander in to the streets a lot don't they?... someone will have noticed the child, and come to rescue him or her...). Consequently, the writing is usually clear and easy to interpret.

Sentence Fluency

Score Point: 5

The writer uses sentences that are consistently well-crafted and varied in length and structure (Another reason is the busy roads. In the area where I live there aren't many busy roads. I see you have a few little children. They wander into the streets a lot don't they? Well, the speed limit is twenty-five, and there aren't many busy roads, so by the time a car comes along, someone will have noticed the child, and come to rescue him or her, or the car will slowly come to a stop). One fragment (Or for families with new born babies) works well. Thus, the writing has an easy flow and rhythm when read aloud.

Conventions**Score Point: 5**

The writer demonstrates a good grasp of standard writing conventions in sufficiently long and complex piece of writing. Punctuation is smooth and guides the reader through the text (They wander into the streets a lot don't they? Well, the speed limit is twenty-five, and there aren't many busy roads, so by the time a car comes along...). Grammar and usage are usually correct. Spelling is usually correct. Consequently, errors are so few and minor that the reader can easily skim right over them.

A Special Place
03UT06WR_A-14a

Dear Jordan,

I just got back from one of my best vacations ever. My family and I went to Walt Disney World, in Orlando, Florida. Our week spent there was amazing. While I was there, I rode in a "broken" elevator, met an "alien", visited lots of different "countries", and even swam with sharks!

The first day there, we went to the "Animal Kingdom." It's pretty much like a zoo, with lots of jungle animals. But the best part about it is that there is a couple of rides. One of them, the Asian raft ride, is a twisting, turning adventure through a big, fake river. I got soaking wet on that ride, because rapids splash up over the sides of the raft every second. The water was freezing cold, but I still had fun.

Magic Kingdom was our thing on the second day. It is almost exactly like Disneyland, but it has a few more rides. My favorite one was the, "Extra TERROR-estial." It freaked me out so bad, because a fake alien came and "attacked" us. I really wish you could have been there with



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me. Then we could have screamed our heads off together, and had the time of our lives.

Day three brought us to "Typhoon Lagoon," a water park on Disney property. There are tons of water slides there, and the biggest wave-pool I have seen. The wave pool was just like the ocean, with waves rolling in from the deepest water into the shallowest part of the pool. I loved going way out into the deep water, and body-surfing in to shore on the tumbling blue waves.

The best part about "Typhoon Lagoon" was when we got to snorkel with sharks. It was a free program; you just had to have enough bravery to go into ice-cold water with sting-rays and tiger sharks. I had lots of fun doing it, although I was a bit scared at first. What you do is put on a thin vest that keeps you sort of warm, then get a mask and snorkel. After you have put on your gear, you can head out into the salt water, and get used to it for a while. When you're ready, lay on your stomach, put your face down, and paddle with your hands. You get to float across the stretch of water, which is sort of small, looking at the beautiful coral and fish. If you're lucky, you might see the sting ray

A Special Place
03UT06WR A-14b

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floating across the bottom.

This experience was a thrilling one. It had been my first time using a snorkel and mask. I hope that I can do it again someday!

Well Jordan, I gotta' go now. I'll tell you about my last two days in my next letter. I love you and miss you! I wish that you could have been with me the whole time in Disney World. See you soon (I hope)

Love,

Elizabeth

Ideas and Content**Score Point: 5**

This response is clear, focused, and persuasive. The writer states his/her opinion, the main idea (My family and I went to Walt Disney World, in Orlando, Florida. Our week spent there was amazing), in a convincing manner by providing ample elaboration (There are tons of water slides there, and the biggest wave-pool I have seen...I loved going way out into the deep water, and body-surfing in to shore... If you're lucky, you might see the sting ray floating across the bottom). Relevant anecdotes and details enrich the main idea (The best part about "Typhoon Lagoon" was when we got to snorkel with sharks. It was a free program; you just had to have enough bravery to go into ice-cold water with sting-rays and tiger sharks... When you're ready, lay on your stomach, put your face down, and paddle with your hands. You get to float across the stretch of water, wich is sort of small, looking at the beautiful coral and fish).

Organization**Score Point: 5**

This response offers an inviting introduction that draws the reader in (I just got back from one of my best vacations ever. My family and I went to Walt Disney World, in Orlando, Florida. Our week spent there was amazing). Details fit where they are placed, and transitions are smooth (Day three brought us... After you have put on... When you're ready). The response is completed by the satisfying conclusion (I wish that you could have been with me the whole time in Disney World. See you soon [I hope]). Thus, the response has an overall structure that enhances the main idea and moves the reader nicely through the text.

Voice**Score Point: 5**

The writer speaks directly to the audience, a friend, in an expressive, engaging way (It freaked me out so bad, because a fake alien came and "attacked" us. I really wish you could have been there with me. Then we could have screamed our heads off together, and had the time of our lives). The language is natural and brings the topic to life (The wave pool was just like the ocean, with waves rolling in from the deepest water into the shallowest part of the pool. I loved going way out into the deep water, and body-surfing in to shore on the tumbling, blue waves). Consequently, the reader feels a strong sense of interaction with the writer and senses the person behind the words.

Word Choice**Score Point: 5**

In this response, words are specific and accurate (twisting, turning adventure through a big, fake river... tumbling, blue waves... ice-cold water). Imagery is strong (The wave pool was just like the ocean, with waves rolling in from the deepest water into the shallowest part of the pool), and powerful verbs give the writing energy (rapids splash up... body-surfing up to shore). Thus, words in this response convey the intended message in an interesting, precise, and natural way.

Sentence Fluency**Score Point: 5**

In this response, sentences are consistently well-crafted and varied in structure and length (Our week spent there was amazing. While I was there, I rode in a "broken" elevator, met an "alien", visited lots of different "countries" and even swan with sharks!), adding interest to the text. The writing employs effective phrasing, with one sentence flowing into the next (But the best part about it is that there is a couple of rides. One of them, the Asian raft ride, is a twisting, turning adventure through a big, fake river. I got soaking wet on that ride, because rapids splash up over the sides of the raft every second). Consequently, the writing sounds natural and fluent.

Conventions**Score Point: 5**

The writer demonstrates a good grasp of standard writing conventions in a sufficiently long and complex piece of writing. Grammar and usage are correct and contribute to clarity and style (It was a free program; you just had to have enough bravery to go into ice-cold water with sting-rays and tiger sharks). Punctuation is smooth and guides the reader through the text (While I was there, I rode in a "broken" elevator, met an "alien", visited lots of different "countries", and even swan with sharks!) Spelling is generally correct even on more difficult words (Typhoon Lagoon, experience, snorkel). Errors are so few and minor (swan, wich, lot's) that the reader can easily skim right over them.